

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 6, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 5:30 p.m. in Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Blair (until 7:30 p.m.), Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus (arrived 7:45 p.m.), Schaefer

II. WORK SESSION

Town Manager Matt Hart distributed and reviewed handouts, which addressed questions previously asked by members of the Council including: budget cut scenarios from the Mansfield Library; a comparative analysis of electricity usage at the Community Center; anticipated savings from an across the board wage freeze for Town and Board of Education employees; a summary of statewide changes to the state budget; a listing of town vehicles and a comparison of purchasing vs. mileage; and explanation of overtime in the Department of Public Works; the hiring of part time firefighters, and the impacts of closing a fire station. Ms. Koehn requested the budget correction sent by e-mail to members be included in the full document.

1. Mansfield Board of Education Budget

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that the sense of the Council is to ask the Town Manager to discuss with the Mansfield Board of Education a \$200,000 reduction to their 2009/10 budget.

Ms. Koehn amended the motion as follows:

Instruct the Town Manager to obtain the impacts of additional cut to the Board of Education budget of \$14,000 over and above the \$186,000 already suggested; to obtain the impact of a \$350,000 budget reduction; and to obtain the impact of a \$443,000 budget reduction. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt the motion to amend passed unanimously.

The motion to approve as amended passed unanimously.

2. Fire and Emergency Services Discussion

Flag – Prepare an impact statement showing an overall decrease of \$100,000 to the Fire and Emergency Services budget.

Flag – Continue to work on the proposal to recoup some of the expenses associated with conducting fire inspections. The proposal will be sent to the Finance Committee for review.

3. Library Services Discussion

4. Operating Transfers to Other Funds

Flag – Provide a list of positions and corresponding salaries for members of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Flag – Eventually the teen center and aquatics expenditures will become part of the General Fund.

Flag – Discuss possible reallocation of money from the open space fund to maintenance of existing open space under the Capital and CNR Funding agenda item.

Flag – Add energy usage as an item of future budget work session.

5. Internal Services Funds

Flag – Add a narrative that explains the Management Service Fund and its relationship to energy use to the introduction of the budget.

6. Other Agencies/Funds

Flag – Research whether or not the Eastern Highland Health District's per capita fee includes UConn students.

7. General Discussion/Council Questions

Flag – Continue to investigate the possibility of sharing the services of a state trooper with another town.

8. Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

Charlie Eaton, Lorraine Drive, applauded the Town Manager and Council for their efforts in the budget process. He also applauded new Superintendent Fred Baruzzi on his efforts to produce the Board of Education's budget. Mr. Eaton urged the Council to go to all bargaining units in the Town and reopen the contracts. He asked the Council not to underestimate the willingness of the Education staff to contribute to the town.

Penny Potter, Warrenville Road, requested Library hours not be reduced in this year's budget. Ms. Potter commented that the Library offers many services to residents including computers, reference material and books.

Don Potter, Warrenville Road, expressed his support for emergency services and is opposed to cost recovery for these services.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agreed with the previous two speakers and asked the Council to look at the programs throughout Town noting that the current services are not sustainable. She also asked that the Council charge Region 19 for the use of the Community Center pool.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, commented that he sees the fire department as a problem and asked the Council not to succumb to the fear factor expressed regarding the closing of a fire station. Mr. Hossack also feels that the state police are not adequate protection for the Town. He suggested the

ambulance service be privatized and asked the Board of Education to reopen contracts.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, commented that he and his wife attended a meeting of the Windham Fire Service District at which a budget was passed for 3 fire departments totaling, \$320,000.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, questioned the need for class sizes of 20 for Middle School students.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to recess the meeting and go into executive session to discuss Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining as provided for in CGS§1-200(2).

Motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer

Also Present: Town Manager Matthew Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager
Maria Capriola, Fire Chief Dave Dagon

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk